MS6: Richard Malcolm Johnston Papers, 1841-1935
MS 06

Finding aid prepared by Kristen Romano

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May 06, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
February 2003
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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Title	Richard Malcolm Johnston Papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1880-1889
Date [inclusive]	1841-1935
Extent	5.0 Linear feet 6 boxes, 12 publications
Language	English
Abstract	The Richard Malcolm Johnston Collection ranges in date from 1841-1935, though the bulk of the collection is dated from the 1880s. This collection provides an excellent study of Johnston’s writings and his influence in the literary world. The original manuscripts and drafts of speeches capture Johnston’s progression to his final, published product. The correspondence with friends and his family members provides a rich detail of the life Johnston led and his impact on the literary world. Also included are ephemera and published works.

Preferred Citation

Richard Malcolm Jonston Papers, 1841-1935, Special Collections, Enoch Pratt Free Library/Maryland's State Library Resource Center.

Biographical note

Richard Malcolm Johnston was born on March 8, 1822 on the family plantation, "Oak Grove," near Powelton, Ga. He was the son of Malcolm, a planter and ordained Baptist preacher, and Catherine Davenport. Johnston graduated from Mercer University, Penfield (now at Macon), in 1841. He taught for a year and then practiced law until 1857 when he accepted the position of the chair of rhetoric and belles-lettres at the University of Georgia. From 1862 to 1867 he conducted a school for boys at Rockby, Ga. Johnston instituted an "honor system," instead of harsh physical punishments often used for discipline at the time. The school remained open during the Civil War, even as Johnston served on the staff of General J.E. Brown and helped organize the state militia.

After the War, Johnston moved the school to Baltimore under the name of Pen Lucy School. One of his teachers was Sidney Lanier, the famed poet. Lanier, along with Baltimore publisher Henry C. Turnball, encouraged Johnston to write for publication. Johnston, although over 50 years old at the time, sent his stories to the Southern Magazine. Johnston’s story-telling, filled with kindness, humor, morality, and love for the South, became immediately popular. His first book, the Dukesborough Tales, was published in 1871. Some of his other published works Life of Alexander H. Stephens (1878); Old Mark Langston (1884); Two Gray Tourists (1885); Ogeechee Cross-Firings (1889); Widow Guthrie (1890); The Primes and Their Neighbors (1891); Mr. Billy Downs and His Likes (1892); Mr. Fortner's Marital Claims (1892); Little Ike Templin (1894); Old Times in Middle Georgia (1897); Pearce Amerson's Will (1898); and Autobiography of Col. Richard Malcolm Johnston (1900).

Johnston also delivered numerous lectures at St. Mary's Seminary, Notre Dame College of Maryland, and St. Charles' College in Ellicott City, Md. From 1895 to 1898, he was a member of the regular staff of lecturers at the Catholic Summer School located in Plattsburg, N. Y. He was also a popular reader and lecturer in the eighties and nineties when the lyceum system flourished throughout the country. He lectured with several contemporary humorists--once, in 1889, with Mark Twain, who was the guest of the Johnstons in Baltimore.

In 1844 he married Mary Frances Mansfield of New Haven, CN. They had seven children. In 1875, he was received into the Catholic Church. He died September 23, 1898 in Baltimore. (Biography taken largely from the Dictionary of American Biography Base Set.)

Scope and Contents

The Richard Malcolm Johnston Collection ranges in date from 1841-1935, though the bulk of the collection is dated from the 1880s. The Collection is divided into five series: I. Manuscripts, 1891-1896;

II. Addresses given by Richard Malcolm Johnston, 1841-1887; III. Correspondence, 1874-1917; IV. Ephemera of Richard Malcolm Johnston, 1844- 1935; and V. Published Works, 1860-1902.

Arrangement

I Manuscripts, 1891-1896 This first series consists of original drafts of Johnston's written works. Only a few of the works are dated and some of the materials are untitled. The series is arranged alphabetically by title of the manuscript. The Miscellaneous and Additions folders are at the end of the series. The untitled works are identified by the first words of the piece.

II. Addresses given by Richard Malcolm Johnston, 1841-1887 The second series of the Collection are the drafts of some of Johnston's speeches. They are arranged chronologically according to a date that Johnston himself wrote on the work or one that was supplied by Ruth Johnston. (All supplied dates are written within brackets.)

III. Correspondence, 1874-1917 The third series is divided into three subseries: 1. Letters written by Richard Malcolm Johnston, March 1890-June 1890; 2. Letters received by Richard Malcolm Johnston, 1874-1898; and 3. Correspondence with the Johnston family, 1905-1917. Subseries one is arranged chronologically, subseries two is arranged alphabetically by author of the correspondence, and subseries three is arranged alphabetically by recipient of the letter. Some letters of interest are those from Samuel Clemens and Sidney Lanier.

IV. Ephemera of Richard Malcolm Johnston, 1884-1935 Series four is a group of materials that provide the researcher with a further insight into Richard Malcolm Johnston's life and hobbies. This series is divided into three subseries: 1. Written works about Richard Malcolm Johnston, 1884-1896; 2. Photographs, 1886-1894; and 3. Autograph books. The written works about Johnston include his move to Catholicism and biographies. The photographs are of himself, his wife, and his father. The autograph albums contain a variety of signatures, most notably that of Samuel Clemens.

V. Published Works, 1860-1902 The published works series is broken down into two subseries: 1. Books written by Richard Malcolm Johnston, 1860-1898; and 2. Works donated by Ruth Johnston in 1938 from Richard Malcolm Johnston's library. Most of the books are signed by the authors and are dedicated to her or her father. They are located in Special Collections. Dates include 1652, 1880-1902. Subseries 1 is arranged alphabetically by title and subseries two is arranged alphabetically by author. All books written by Johnston are cataloged and interfiled with the Maryland Imprints in Special Collections.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections February 2003

Conditions Governing Access

"Unrestricted, by appointment only."

Accruals

"No accruals are expected."

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ruth Johnston, the daughter of Richard Malcom Johnston, donated The Richard Malcolm Johnston Collection to the Enoch Pratt Free Library in the 1930s. The Sun, confirms Ruth's donation to the Pratt in November 1938, but made no specific mention of her father’s papers. Ruth’s handwriting appears throughout the Collection placing dates and places on many of the addresses and manuscripts.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Baltimore sun.
- Mercer University.
- Pen Lucy School--Maryland--Baltimore.
- Southern Magazine.
- University of Georgia.

Genre(s)

- addresses
- autographs (manuscripts)
- manuscripts (document genre)
- newspapers

Personal Name(s)

- Johnston, Richard Malcolm , 1822-1898
- Johnston, Ruth
- Lanier, Sidney, 1842-1881
- Turnball, Henry C.

Subject(s)

- American Literature
- Catholicism
- Honor system (Higher education)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Manuscripts 1891- 1896	Box 1-2	Folder 1-36A Case of Spite
	Box	**Folder**
A Case of Spite	1	1
A Confederate Rooster	1	2
A Term of Years Policy, October 1893 and 1894	1	3
An Accusation of Rheumatism	1	4
Bella, February 1896	1	5
Brother Azanias	1	6
Dan and His Friends	1	7
Dreaming and Waking	1	8
Disobedience of Orders	1	9
Ephe, [1895]	1	10

Georgia Provincialism, November 1892	1	11
Hicks v. Butler (attached to A Case of Spite)	1	12
Jim Rakestraw	1	13
Miss Clisby’s Romance	1	14
Mr. Pates’ Only Infirmity, 1893	1	15
My School	1	16
Our Witch	1	17
Recognition, October 12, 1891	1	18
Retaliation	1	19
St. Columba	1	20
Separation of Friends	1	21
Sheep Raising and Dogs, April 1893	2	22
Some Things About John Knox	2	23
The Campaign of Potiphar McCray	2	24

The New South, 1893	2	25
The South	2	26
The Vagrant	2	27
The Widow Lazenberry, December 1894	2	28
Their Cousin Letty	2	29
Untitled, “Every great principle...”	2	30
Untitled, “I have been invited…”	2	31
Untitled, “In acknowledging the honor…”	2	32
Works about John Lyle	2	33
Works on the treatment of children	2	34
Miscellaneous- no title, no date	2	35
Additions made by RMJ to another author’s work	2	36
Series II: Addresses given by Richard Malcolm Johnston 1841- 1887	**Box** 3	**Folder** 37-54
	Box	**Folder**
Sparta Ladies’ School Midsummer Commencement, June 1841	3	37

Mt. Zion, July 1842	3	38
Phi Delta Society at Penfield Commencement, 1846	3	39
On General Zachary Taylor at Sparta, [July 1848]	3	40
Freemasonry in Washington, GA, [June 1848 or 1849]	3	41
Sparta, July 1849	3	42
Alumni Society at Penfield, [1855 or 1856]	3	43
[Georgia State Fair], “Mr. President & Gentleman Fellow Citizens!”, [1857]	3	44
“Humanity in War”, [ca 1856]	3	45
Untitled, “The days are gone…”, [1868]	3	46
Pen Lucy School Midsummer Commencement, June 1876	3	47
Teacher’s Association of Baltimore, January 1887	3	48
On Alexander H. Stephens	3	49
Commencement of Baptist College in Madison	3	50

Untitled, “I was gratified when I heard…”	3	51
Untitled, “Ladies, Sir Knights, & Gentlemen, I knew…”	3	52
Untitled, “Of the two first born sons of woman…”	3	53
Untitled, “Sir Knights, Gentlemen, & Ladies, When the…”	3	54
Series III: Correspondence 1874 - 1917	**Box** 4-5	**Folder** 55-82
Subseries 1: Written by Richard Malcolm Johnston March 1890-June 1890	**Box** 4	**Folder** 55-56
	Box	**Folder**
RMJ to Ruth Johnston, March 1890- June 1890	4	55
RMJ to Atlanta Constitution	4	56
Subseries 2: Letters received by Richard Malcolm Johnston 1874-1898	**Box** 4-5	**Folder** 57-82
	Box	**Folder**
Alden, H.M., 1880-1889	4	57
Allen, Janet Lane, January- March 1890	4	58
Browne, William Hand	4	59
Clemens, Samuel, 1887-1889	4	60Cosmopolitan Editors,

		August-October 1890
Cosmopolitan Editors, August- October 1890	4	61
Frost, A.B. and wife, 1889- 1890	4	62
Harris, Joel C., January- July 1887	4	63
Hitchcock, Ripley, September- December 1890	4	64
Lanier, Sydney and family, 1874-1898	4	65
Lippincott’s Monthly Magazine, September 1892	4	66
Macmillan Company, July 1898	4	67
Nye, Edgar W., September 1889	4	68
Page, Thomas N., 1888-1889	4	69
Riley, J.W., June- September 1890	4	70Stockton, Frank, September 1889Stockton, Frank, September 1889Stockton, Frank,

		September 1889
Stockton, Frank, September 1889	4	71
Stoddard, Charles Warren, March 1895	4	72
Stoddard, John L., October 1887	4	73
Tabb, John, 1880-1885	5	74
Tabb, John, 1892-1895	5	75
Wallis, S.J., 1874-1890	5	76
Youth’s Campaign, March 1893	5	77
Subseries 3: Correspondence with the Johnston Family 1905-1917	**Box** 5	**Folder** 78-81
	Box	**Folder**
Charlton, Mrs. Walter G. (RMJ’s daughter) and Edmund Eitel(Charles Whitcomb Riley’s Secretary and nephew), October 1915	5	78
Jenkins, Effie Johnston (RMJ’s daughter) and James Whitcomb Riley and Edmund Eitel, 1905- 1917	5	79
Johnston, Mary (RMJ’s wife) with Eugene Field, January- April 1887	5	80

Johnston (RMJ's daughter though not identified) with A.B. Frost, 1891-1898		5	81
Subseries 4: Miscellaneous Correspondence		**Box** 5	**Folder** 82
		Box	**Folder**
Miscellaneous Correspondence and documents		5	82
Series IV: Ephemera of Richard Malcolm Johnston 1884-1935	**Box** 5-6	**Folder** 83-87	**Object** 1-3
Subseries 1: Written works about Richard Malcolm Johnston 1884-1896		**Box** 5	**Folder** 83-84
		Box	**Folder**
Articles about Richard Malcolm Johnston		5	83
Ancestry of Richard Malcolm Johnston, April 1935		5	84
Subseries 2: Photographs 1886-1894		**Box** 5	**Folder** 85-87
		Box	**Folder**
Richard Malcolm Johnston		5	85
Mary Johnston and Malcolm Johnston, 1894		5	86
Miscellaneous photographs, 1886-1892		5	87
Subseries 3: Ephemera Items	**Box** 5-6	**Folder** 83-87	**Object** 2-3
	Box	**Folder**	**Object**

The Author's Club-10th Anniversary of the Founding 1882-1892, At the Hotel of St. Denis, February 28, 1893. Program includes members, guests, and some autographs	6	1	1
		Box	**Volume**
Autograph Book donated by Jean Milles		6	2
		Box	**Folder**
Black Portfolio – Contains transcripts of letters written to Col. Richard Malcolm Johnston. Presented to Enoch Pratt Free Library January 1939 by Miss Ruth Johnston.		6	3
Series V: Published Works 1860-1902			**Volume** 1-46
Subseries 1: Works by Richard Malcolm Johnston 1860-1898			**Volume** 1-12
			Volume
Dukesborouch Tales. The Chronicle of Mr. Bill Williams, 1892			F191 .J73 D79
Lectures of Literature; English, French, and Spanish, 1897			F191 .J73 L4
Little Ike Templin, and Other Stories, 1894			F191 .J73 L55
Mr. Absalom Billingslea and Other Georgia Folk, 1888			F191 .J73 M6
Mr. Billy Downs and His Likes, 1892			F191 .J73 M62

Mr. Fortner's Martial Claims, and Other Stories, 1892	F191 .J73 M65
Old Times in Middle Georgia, 1897 F191 .J73 O5	F191 .J73 O5
Pearce Amerson's Will, 1898 (F191 .J73 P4)	F191 .J73 P4
The English Classics: A Historical Sketch of the Literature Of England from the Earliest Times to the Accession of King George III, 1860 (F191 .J3 E6)	F191 .J3 E6
The Primes and Their Neighbors; Ten Tales of Middle Georgia, 1891	F191 .J73 P7
Two Gray Tourists: From Papers of Mr. Philemon Perch, 1885	F191 .J73 T8
Widow Guthrie, A Novel, 1890	F191 .J73 W3
Subseries 2: Works donated by Ms. Ruth Johnston. 1652, 1880-1902	**Volume** 1-33
Cable, George W. Dr. Sevier. Boston: James R. Osgood and Co., 1885	
Carman, Bliss and Richard Hovey. More Songs from Vagabondia. Boston: Copeland and Day. 1896	
Carman, Bliss and Richard Hovey. Songs from Vagabondia. Boston: Copeland and Day, 1895.	
Coppée, François. Ten Tales. Trans. Walter Learned. New York: Harper & Bros., 1891	

Subseries 2: Works donated by Ms. Ruth Johnston.

Field, Eugene. A Little Book of Profitable Tales. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1892.

Field, Eugene. With Trumpet and Drum. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1892

Garland, Hamlin. Main-Travelled Roads: Six Mississippi Valley Stories. Boston: Arena Publishing Co., 1891

Harris, Joel Chandler. Mingo and other Sketches in Black and White. Boston: James R. Osgood and Co., 1884

Hovey, Richard. The Birth of Galahad. Boston: Small, Maynard and Co., 1898. Signed on separate sheet.

Johnson, Robert Underwood. Songs of Liberty and Other Poems. New York: The Century Co., 1897

Johnson, Robert Underwood. The Winter Hour and Other Poems. New York: The Century Co., 1892

Lanier, Sidney. The Science of English Verse. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1880

Learned, Walter. Between Times. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1891. 3rd ed.

Riley, James Whitcomb. Afterwhiles. Indianapolis: Bowen-Merrill, 1888

Riley, James Whitcomb. Armazindy. Indianapolis: Bowen-Merrill, 1894

Riley, James Whitcomb. The Book of Joyous Children. Illus. J.W. Vawter. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1902

Subseries 2: Works donated by Ms. Ruth Johnston.

Riley, James Whitcomb. A Child World. Indianapolis: Bowen-Merrill, 1897

Riley, James Whitcomb. The Flying Islands of the Night. Indianapolis: Bowen-Merrill, 1892. Unsigned

Riley, James Whitcomb. Green Fields and Running Brooks. Indianapolis: Bowen-Merrill, 1893. Unsigned

Riley, James Whitcomb. Neighborly Poems on Friendship, Grief and Farm-life. Indianapolis: Bowen-Merrill, 1891

Riley, James Whitcomb. Old-Fashioned Roses. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1888

Riley, James Whitcomb. Pipes O' Pan at Zekesbury. Indianapolis: Bowen-Merrill, 1889

Riley, James Whitcomb. Poems Here at Home. New York: The Century Co., 1893

Riley, James Whitcomb. Rhymes of Childhood. Indianapolis: Bowen-Merrill, 1891

Riley, James Whitcomb. Rubáiyát of Doc Sifers. New York: The Century Co., 1887

Rodd, Rennell. Rose Leaf and Apple Leaf. Philadelphia: J.M. Stoddart & Co., 1882

Rodd, Rennell. Stedman, Edmund Clarence and Stephen B. Weeks. Literary Estimate and Bibliography of Richard Malcolm Johnston. Harrisburg, PA: Harrisburg Publishing Co., 1898. Unsigned

Rodd, Rennell. The Nature and Elements of Poetry. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1892

Rodd, Rennell. Poems Now First Collected. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1897

Rodd, Rennell. The Poetical Works of Edmund Clarence Stedman. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1885. Unsigned.

Stoddard, Charles Warren. South Sea Idylls. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1892

Tabb, John B. Poems. Publisher and date unknown. 1938 gift to library

Tulpii, Nicolai. Observationes Medicæ. Amsterdam: Apud Ludovicum Elzevirium, 1652. Unsigned